

# **GUIDELINES FOR LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE**

*For use by Unidocs Member Agencies or where approved by your Local Jurisdiction*

*Authority Cited: California Codes as listed below*

The following information has been compiled by the Santa Clara County Fire Prevention Officers:

The Office of the California State Fire Marshal has adopted regulations for Large Family Day Care homes. These regulations were written to protect the day care occupants in case of fire or other life threatening emergencies. The local Fire Department is required to inspect the building in order to ensure that these regulations are being followed. This information is a guideline designed to assist individuals in preparation for an inspection. This guideline includes some of the common issues found during the inspection process.

## **Definitions:**

CAC: California Administrative Code

CBC: California Building Code

CFC: California Fire Code

CPC: California Plumbing Code

Exit: An exit is a continuous unobstructed means of egress to a public way and includes gates

Large Family Day Care: A provider's own home licensed to provide day care for nine to fourteen persons, less than twenty-four hours per day. This would include children under the age of ten who reside at the providers' home.

## **Fees and Permit Requirements:**

The provider must have a current license issued by the State of California. In addition to the license issued by the state each individual jurisdiction, city or town in Santa Clara County will have its own permitting and licensing requirements.

Please contact your local fire prevention office to determine the fees applicable to conduct an annual inspection and the permitting process.

All licenses and permits shall be kept and posted in a conspicuous location.  
(CFC 105.5)

## **General:**

An approved number or address must be posted on the building in such a position as to be plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property.  
(CFC 901.4)

Yards shall be maintained to prevent the accumulation of trash, refuse, dead vegetation, weeds, and or any other combustible materials.  
(CFC 1103)

## Large Family Day Care Guidelines

Chimneys attached to any appliance or fireplace that burns a solid fuel shall be equipped with an approved spark arrester.  
(CFC 1109.7)

### Building Construction:

Day care operations shall not be permitted in garage or patio area(s).

*Exception: The conversion has been performed under permit and the space meets all applicable state and local regulations.*  
(CFC 106.1)

A one-hour separation between the day care area and the garage is required. The separation may be limited to the installation of materials approved for one-hour fire resistive construction on the garage side and a self-closing, tight fitting solid-wood door 1 3/8" inches in thickness, or a self-closing tight fitting door having a fire protection rating of not less than twenty minutes.  
(CBC 302.4)

Day care rooms shall only be permitted on the first floor only.

*Exception: The building is equipped with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system throughout.*  
(CBC 305.2.3)

Every sleeping room shall have at least one operable window or door approved for emergency escape or rescue. The window or door must be openable from the inside to provide a full clear opening without the use of separate tools or special knowledge.

*(Windows must have a minimum openable height of twenty-four inches and a minimum openable width of twenty inches; the finished sill height shall not exceed a maximum of forty-four inches from the floor).*  
(CBC 310.4)

### Fire Protection Systems and Equipment:

A portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2A10BC rating shall be mounted in an accessible location no higher than five feet from the floor. The fire extinguisher is required to be visually inspected on a monthly basis. The fire extinguisher shall be serviced annually by a state fire marshal licensed concern and bear a current service tag.  
(CFC 1002)

A smoke detector will be located in each sleeping room and at a point centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area. When the dwelling unit has more than one story and in dwellings with basements, a smoke alarm will be located on each story and basement.  
(CBC 310.9)

Smoke detectors shall be tested monthly. Battery operated detectors must have batteries replaced as needed, not to exceed a period of one year. Smoke detectors shall be installed per manufacturer's installation guidelines and the smoke detector shall not be in service for a period of time to exceed ten years from the date of manufacture.

## **Large Family Day Care Guidelines**

In addition to the smoke detector requirement(s), every large family day care shall provide and maintain a device(s) suitable for sounding a fire alarm. Such devices shall be attached to the structure easily accessible and unobstructed. The tone and audibility of the device shall be distinctive and heard throughout the structure. (CBC 310.15.4)

*Examples of these devices include the following:*

- a. Battery operated smoke detector (Not permitted in Sunnyvale)*
- b. Manually operated alarm bell or horn*

### **Electrical:**

Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent wiring and shall be used only with portable appliances. (CFC 8506)

Multi-plug adapters, multi-plug extension cords, cube adapters, and other strip plugs and other devices shall not be used. (CFC 8507)

### **Exits:**

Every story or basement shall be provided with two exits that are remotely located from each other. A horizontal sliding door may be used as one of the required exits.

*(Each exit shall be a minimum of thirty- two inches in width and six feet eight inches in height).*

All exits doors shall be openable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort.

*(Dead bolts will be permitted if they are interconnected with the doorknob in such a manner, as turning the doorknob will simultaneously unlock the dead bolt in a single operation) (see attached example).*

Obstructions are not permitted in the aisles, corridors, stairways and exit.

Side gates that are part of the exit path shall be provided with single operation hardware. An example is a string with a handle (at children's level) that is attached to the normal gate latch (see attached example)

A means of exit shall not pass through kitchens, storerooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes. (CBC 1007.6.2.3)

### **General Safety:**

Flammable and combustible liquids in quantities in excess of ten gallons shall be stored in a flammable liquid locker or cabinet. Flammable liquids that do not exceed ten gallons shall be stored in approved containers within the garage. (CFC 7902.5.8)

All Hazardous Materials must be stored in an area inaccessible to children.

## Large Family Day Care Guidelines

The heating system shall be capable of maintaining a temperature of seventy degrees Fahrenheit.  
(CBC )

The water heater will have a temperature pressure relief valve installed.  
(CPC)

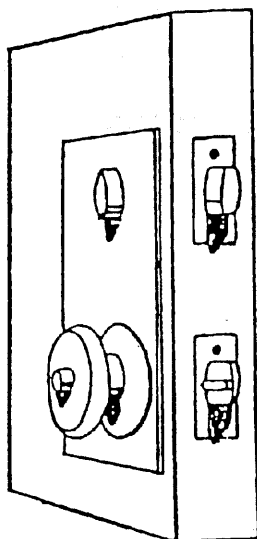
A thirty-six inch clearance must be maintained around any heat producing equipment or appliances.  
(CFC 1109.2)

Gas water heaters if located within the garage shall be eighteen inches above the level of the floor.  
(CPC)

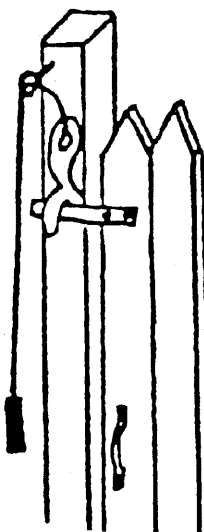
The water heater must be seismically secured.  
(CPC 510.5)

An emergency evacuation plan must be developed, reviewed and posted on site.  
(CAC Title-22)

Fire drills are to be conducted on a monthly basis and the records shall be maintained on site and available for review.  
(CAC Title-22)



*Exit door deadbolt/latch*



*Gate Latch*